

BROWNS BAR AND STORE (PWS 6030066) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

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State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is completing the assessments for all Idaho public drinking water systems. The assessment for the Browns Bar and Store drinking water source is based on a land use inventory within a 1,000 foot radius of the well source, sensitivity factors associated with the source, and characteristics associated with either your aquifer or watershed in which you live.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for the Browns Bar and Store (PWS # 6030066)* describes the public drinking water system, the associated potential contaminant sources located within a 1,000 foot boundary around the drinking water source, and the susceptibility (risk) that may be associated with any associated potential contaminants. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this system. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the Browns Bar and Store water system.**

The Browns Bar and Store drinking water system consists of one well that serves the store and four residential homes (Figure 1). The well is located in an area where greater than 25% of the surrounding wells show nitrate values above 5 mg/L. Nitrate levels in the Browns Bar and Store well have been detected at 16.4 mg/L and 18.3 mg/L in March 1994, 25.3 mg/L in April 1997, 13.5 mg/L in December 1998, and 11.2 mg/L in October 1999. Reverse osmosis units (point of use only) were installed to reduce the nitrate concentrations in the drinking water. The potential contaminant sources within the delineation capture zone include a former underground storage tank facility (Figure 2). Septic tank systems are also located within the well's capture zone. Contaminants of concern are business chemicals such as petroleum products and nitrates from possible leaking septic systems and agricultural activities.

The susceptibility of the well to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement.

Hydrologic sensitivity was rated moderate for the well. This is based upon poor to moderate drained soil classes defined by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Soils that have poor to moderate drainage characteristics have better filtration capabilities than faster draining soils. There was also insufficient well log information to evaluate the vadose zone composition (zone from land surface to the water table), the first depth to ground water, and whether there is at least 50 feet of cumulative thickness of low permeability material that could reduce the downward movement of contaminants. Well construction was rated moderate for the well. The well construction directly affects the ability to protect the aquifer from contaminants. No well log was available to determine whether the well casing and annular seal extend into a low permeable geologic formation, two important aspects of proper well construction. The well

is located outside the 100-year floodplain and protected from surface runoff. The final susceptibility ranking for the well is high for inorganic and microbial contaminants and moderate for volatile organic and synthetic organic contaminants (Table 2).

A copy of the susceptibility analysis for the Browns Bar and Store system along with a map showing any potential contaminant sources is included with this summary. Information regarding the potential contaminants within the 1,000-foot boundary have been summarized and included in Table 1.

Table 1. Browns Bar and Store Potential Contaminant Inventory

Site #	Source Description	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants
1	Former UST site	Database Inventory	VOC, SOC

VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical,

Table 2. Summary of Browns Bar and Store Susceptibility Evaluation

Well	Susceptibility Scores ¹									
	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
1	M	H	L	L	M	M	H*	M	M	H

¹H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical, **H* = Indicates source automatically scored as high susceptibility due to presence of nitrate above the maximum contaminant level in the tested well water (pre-treatment)**

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For the Browns Bar and Store, source water protection activities should include seeking a new drinking water source when funds become available. This could include drilling a new well or connecting to the city municipal water system if possible. Using a reverse osmosis unit to treat the nitrate problem is also acceptable. The water system will want to post signs at drinking water taps where treatment is not present informing consumers of the risks associated with elevated nitrate levels. The water system should also consider developing a wellhead protection plan. Source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Pocatello Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at (208) 236-6160.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund, is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100-year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by IDEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory

The final scores for the Browns Bar and Store susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.27)
- 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.375)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

- 0 - 5 Low Susceptibility
- 6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility
- > 13 High Susceptibility

1. System Construction		SCORE			
Drill Date	unknown				
Driller Log Available	NO				
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1999			
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1			
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	YES	0			
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2			
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1			
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0			
Total System Construction Score		4			
2. Hydrologic Sensitivity					
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	YES	0			
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1			
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1			
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2			
Total Hydrologic Score		4			
3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	IRRIGATED CROPLAND	2	2	2	2
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		2	2	2	2
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	YES	99	1	1	99
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		8	2	2	8
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	99	1	0	
4 Points Maximum		4	1	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	YES	2	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B 25 to 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		2	2	2	2
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		16	5	4	10
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		18	7	6	12
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		13	10	10	12
5. Final Well Ranking		High	Moderate	Moderate	High